

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

### **Existing Wetlands and Stream Systems**

The study area includes several major wetlands and two stream systems. The Whitemarsh Run and its tributaries traverse the northwestern/western section of the study area near and below the power line. The stream, which is surrounded by significant wetlands, drains into the Bird River. The Windlass Run and several of its tributaries have their genesis in the study area. This stream system is also surrounded by major wetlands and drains into the Bird River. Much of the Windlass Run and its surrounding wetlands are located south of Ebenezer Road between Bird River Road and Earls Road. Another primary wetland system is located along the railroad tracks, in the eastern portion of the study area.

Environmentalists view the development within the study area and its environs with concern. The Windlass Run, with its surrounding wetlands, is the last remaining coastal stream system in Baltimore County that has been left in its natural state. Development, whether residential or nonresidential, will have a significant impact on the Windlass Run and the surrounding wetlands.

### **Recommendations**

Assure preservation and maintenance of environmentally sensitive areas to the greatest extent possible.

Develop and implement incentives that encourage property owners to dedicate environmentally sensitive areas of the Windlass Run and its buffer areas to the County to be used as a stream valley park or a nature preservatory.

Incorporate Windlass Run into the County's Greenways program and amend the official Greenways Map to reflect this designation.